

Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends

NEWSLETTER



DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber Retires After a 45-Year Career in Public Service

Agency Director Margaret Barber recently announced that she was retiring from DJJ after a career in juvenile justice that began in 1968. Director Barber noted that she was visited this summer by the Governor's Chief of Staff to ask whether she would consider returning in the Governor's second term. "I told him I felt it an honor to be asked to return because in many ways I had only just begun my work at DJJ," said Director Barber. "However, on the other hand, my body was telling me that retirement was calling, and I must pay attention."

The decision to retire was not an easy one for Barber, who has worked in public service in South Carolina since she graduated from the Sociology program at Winthrop College as a young woman in 1968. "I started out working as a probation officer for the court in York County," she reflected. "Back then probation was a function that was still under the court system."

Later, Barber would rise in the Community Services Division to serve as a Regional Administrator for the piedmont region.

"She has been an incredible resource and leader for generations of DJJ staff," noted DJJ Deputy Director of Community Services Angie Rita. "She is someone who knows what it's like to be a probation officer in the field."

In 2005, Barber was named one of *Corrections Today's* "Best in the Business." And in 2007, she was named Chief of Staff for Director William Byars. This new agency-wide leadership role led to her final position as Agency Director in 2011.

"To have had the opportunity to be your leader over the past years has been the opportunity of a lifetime," Barber added. "This agency will continue to do great things beyond what we have accomplished together for our youth. Our programs will continue to be strong while new ones will develop."

Barber oversaw the creation of numerous job readiness programs at the agency, including the Job Readiness Training Center, urn building program for unclaimed veterans, eight JRT sites in the community, and the agency's iconic Habitat for Humanity build program. She also oversaw expansion of the Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service program, and the creation of the Store of Hope and, most recently, the Boy's Transition Home. During her time at DJJ, the population of youth at BRRC declined 48% and juvenile crime referrals also consistently dropped, falling 8% in just the last year to hit an all-time modern agency low.

"Change is possible, and it can be a positive change," Barber says. "I know that DJJ has changed and will continue to change for the better."



DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber, pictured with one of the iconic moments of her directorship—DJJ's first Habitat for Humanity home being lifted over the BRRC fence.



Building Our Third Habitat for Humanity Home

On October 6th, DJJ began construction of our third Habitat for Humanity Home at the Broad River Road Complex. And as in previous years, we didn't go it alone. Wells Fargo, Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ), and over 80 other corporate sponsors, staff, and volunteers all helped the agency once again turn an empty space into a standing house in just five days.

"Building this home wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many community partners and volunteers," said Director Barber. "It was also the result of dozens of DJJ staff members who helped coordinate everything from finding tents and chairs, to security, to even volunteering on the build themselves."

The recipient of the home this year is actually an immigrant to the U.S. from central Africa named Rebecca. She and her young son and daughter moved to Lexington five years ago as part of a refugee relocation program through a local church. She entered the Habitat for Humanity program in September, 2013, and has moved quickly through the stages, including nearing completion of the total 350 hours of sweat equity and processing donations and helping customers in Habitat's ReStore.

And she helped on the home build as well, working alongside DJJ juveniles and volunteers.

"When I was here five years ago, I didn't have a place to live," said Rebecca. "And my friends said that one day I would have a home of my own," she added. "I would like to thank everyone for making this possible for me and my family."

Of course, juveniles at BRRC also helped with the build, working alongside staff and volunteers. "This is always a great learning process for them," noted DJJ Director of Youth Industries Sam Bower "A lot of these young people have never swung a hammer, and we teach them to build an entire house."

"Of course, it's not just about learning construction skills," said Director Barber. "It's about learning to work together with other people, to be a part of a team. These young people learned the importance of building something that someone is going to call home one day."

The home was moved to its final location in Chapin earlier this month. Youth and volunteers in the community will help with final landscaping. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year.





Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service 2014

Overview

By all accounts Restoring Carolina through Youth Service 2014 was a *tremendous* success and the biggest event in its six year history! Over the entire month of September more than 1,600 participants including 594 DJJ staff, 866 DJJ juveniles, 40 non-DJJ youth, 177 volunteers, and 40 community partners came together to conduct 109 service projects in all 46 counties. The Community Services Division; DJJ's community alternatives providers; Administrative, Rehabilitative, Educational, and Treatment and Intervention Services, OIG, Planning and Programs; Legal Services; our detention and evaluation centers; and the Broad River Road Complex also participated.

Begun in 2009 to demonstrate DJJ's commitment to giving back to our communities, Restoring Carolina coincides with the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, and continues to make a difference in communities across the state each year. As in past years, DJJ again partnered with local businesses, non-profit agencies, community groups, law enforcement, churches, schools, local food banks, and numerous other organizations statewide to do service projects such as volunteering at homeless shelters, nursing homes, schools, and service organizations, conducting food and clothing drives, preparing, serving, and delivering meals, painting and cleaning public buildings, sprucing up public gardens and much more.

"I want to say 'Thank You' to all the DJJ staff for their many contributions, creativity, caring, and for modeling good citizenship to our youth across the state during this year's Restoring Carolina through Youth Service event," said DJJ Director Margaret H.

Barber. "Through initiatives like Restoring Carolina, DJJ continues to inspire HOPE among the youth and families we serve, while helping our communities become safer places to work, live and play—demonstrating that at DJJ *"Change is Possible!"*

York County Participates in "Back the Pack" and Run

Staff from the York County Office participated in the "Back the Pack" initiative on October 1, 2014, with students from the Rock Hill School District's Applied Technology Center.

"Back The Pack" is a collaborative effort among many businesses and organizations in which the school district collects, prepares and distributes thousands of bags of food to send home weekly to students in the district to who do not receive adequate nutrition until they return to school the following Monday. DJJ staff helped prepare over 1,700 bags of food to send home.



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Restoring Carolina Through Youth Service 2014

The office also participated in the 3rd Annual “BE Great” 8K and Fun Run. The 8K and Fun Run are collaboration between the Boys and Girls Clubs of York County and the Kiwanis Club of Rock Hill. Proceeds from the event helped the local Boys and Girls Club's Teen After-School Center. The Kiwanis Club also sponsored two probationers who participated in the 8K, one of whom finished 3rd in their division.



Our very own (pictured L to R) Jordan Dean, Probation Officer, The Honorable David Guyton, Family Court Judge, and Janet Laganiak, Administrative Specialist ran and completed what was a very tough USATF certified course through the beautiful campus of Winthrop University and Glencairn Gardens.

Other DJJ staff volunteered during the event. It was a great way to engage in a fitness activity together with our youth.

Spartanburg County DJJ Helps Those Most in Need



Community Specialist II/Probation Officer Leng Soung loads canned goods and other non-perishable items into the van for delivery.

Over the month of October, approximately 310 pounds of canned goods and other non-perishable items were collected and donated by the Spartanburg County DJJ office to Miracle Hill, a homeless shelter that serves the county. The experience with Mobile Meals and Miracle Hill proved so rewarding that it sparked a desire among the staff to continue serving healthy meals to those in need, going a little further each time. As a result, canned goods and other non-perishable items will continue to be collected and donated *throughout* the year.

Division of Administrative Services Holds “Clemson vs. Carolina” Drive

Using a little bit of friendly competition between Clemson and Carolina fans, DJJ's Division of Administrative Services helped Restoring Carolina this year by holding a food and money drive for Harvest Hope Food Bank of the Midlands--with team captains cheering on their “teams,” through collection boxes placed throughout the division.

Each item or dollar donated counted as a point for each respective "team," with USC pulling off the victory this year.

In the end, the drive raised 968 food items and over \$660 for Harvest Hope Food Bank.



Diana Gantt announcing the "winner" of the food drive, along with Anne Lybrand, team captain for USC and Steve Pullie, team captain for Clemson

Fifth Funeral Service for Unclaimed Veterans Held, With DJJ Youth-Crafted Burial Urns



Thirteen burial urns and flags for thirteen unclaimed veterans

A funeral service was recently held at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery for unclaimed veterans, with burial urns built by DJJ students. This was the fifth military service with hardwood urns hand-crafted by DJJ youth for the interment of unclaimed veterans' remains and the eighth in the state since 2012. DJJ's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) unit, along with the Missing in America Project (MIAP) team; American Legion Post 6, Columbia; Post 71, North Augusta; and Post 193, Chapin, conducted the ceremony with full military honors.

"Our children have learned so much from this program," said Director Barber. "It may seem like a little thing, making these small urns, but it has become a vital part of our larger goal of helping to teach our young people the importance of giving back to their communities instead of just taking from them."



A family member receives the flag of one of the veterans

DJJ ISO Clifton Jefferson Speaks At School Promotion



Pictured (From left to right): Chris Carden (Vice Principal), Jerry State (Behavioral Specialist), Clifton Jefferson, Pamela Sims (Principal), Shirley Caldwell & Markeda Stuckey (5th Grade Teachers)

On May 29, 2014, Florence County Intensive Supervision Officer Clifton Jefferson gave the message of inspiration at the 5th grade promotion ceremony at Main Street Elementary School. Jefferson's message was "Getting your Goals," keying on the three main points of Focus, Determination and Sacrifice. "Indeed, it was an honor

to be asked to speak at this event, but more importantly, to let everyone see the positive involvement we have in our local communities," said Clifton. "We want to always encourage, inspire and uplift our youth in a public forum whenever the opportunity presents itself."

Main Street Elementary is located in Lake City. The 5th graders that earn their promotion will begin their 6th grade year at J. Paul Truluck Middle School.

Spotlight on DJJ's SCCA Chapter



Front left: Sharon Brunson-President Elect, Andy Broughton, Carlita Cheeks-Secretary, Kathy Byrd Bryant-Hospitality Chair, and Daniel Johnson- Treasurer. Back left: Michael Smith, Jan Giesen-Programming Chair, Aloysius Anderson- Membership Chair, and Priscilla Pee- President.

The South Carolina Correctional Association, better known as SCCA, is a multidisciplinary organization consisting of correctional professionals in all aspects of the criminal justice field. SCCA was formed in February of 1979 after being instituted as a state chapter within the American Correctional Association (ACA), which was founded in 1870 and is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world. SCCA provides professional development to its members through several workshops and seminars conducted throughout the year as well as conducts an annual conference, which is held in Myrtle Beach.

Just as SCCA is a state chapter within ACA, DJJ also has a chapter of SCCA. DJJ employees have been members of SCCA for many years, even when the DJJ chapter itself was not active. So even though we have accounted for 32 members, SCCA members of the DJJ chapter believe that there are more current members out there. They would like you to let them know who you are! This is an agency-wide chapter, and they solicit your membership. They have great

ideas about how to build and sustain an effective chapter and they welcome yours. Regardless of your job title and work location, please join them in this endeavor.

Contact Priscilla Pee for more information at (803) 896-5416.

DJJ's Certified Public Managers

Each year DJJ is invited to nominate supervisors and managers who have demonstrated leadership potential within the agency to participate in the South Carolina Certified Managers Program (CPM). The CPM Program is offered by the Budget and Control Board, and since each agency funds their candidates' participation in the program, DJJ carefully nominates employees based upon their performance, potential and commitment. The CPM program is quite rigorous, taking 18 months to complete. Candidates participate in classes and developmental activities approximately two days each month. There is also a CPM exam and a project which must be completed and passed in order to receive the CPM credential.



This year DJJ was proud to honor four CPM graduates at the 2014 Credential Award Ceremony. DJJ's 2014 graduates were: Angela Flowers, Director of Planning and Evaluation; Jennifer Clarke, Upstate Regional Administrator; Velvet McGowan, PbS State Coordinator; and Elizabeth Hill, General Counsel. While our Agency extends "Congratulations" to all four of the candidates, the Greater Legal Office is especially proud of Ms. Hill and Ms. McGowan, both of whom are exemplary members of that office. Ms. Hill also received the George C. Askew Award for her project (Out of Many, One: Improving the Process of Providing Reports to the SC Board of Juvenile Parole and DJJ Release Authority) and was asked to speak at graduation.

Past DJJ recipients of the Certified Public Managers credential include Justin Williams, Office of Human Resources; Katherine Pierson, Office of Planning and Programs; Mia Richardson-Pressley, Office of Community Justice; and Angie Rita, Division of Community Services. Candidates in the current CPM class who are scheduled to graduate in 2015 are Amahl Bennett, Midlands Regional Administrator; Krista Emory, Assistant HR Director; and Jan Giesen, Director of Social Work.

TASC and JRT Partners Attend Fall Gathering



On Thursday, October 16, 2014 DJJ's Teen After-School Center (TASC) and Job Readiness for Teens (JRT) partners from across the state gathered at the Bill Rogers Community Connection Center to celebrate the accomplishments of the two programs, and to provide a networking forum for DJJ county directors and TASC/JRT staff. DJJ Director Margaret H. Barber welcomed everyone, expressing her thanks to the group for their partnership with DJJ and giving an overview of her vision for moving forward with TASC/JRT in the coming year.

Teen After-School Centers are daily after-school programs based in local churches, community centers, and other public buildings across the state. They provide supervision, structured daily activities, service coordination, and resource development for at-risk youth and their families. Job Readiness for Teens programs are a supplement to the TASC centers providing employability and job skills training, career exposure and community internship/work experience for participants at local businesses.

With approximately 83 in attendance, the TASC/JRT programs were introduced by their respective prevention specialists, Elaunda Williams for the Upstate, Vallorie Robinson for the Midlands, and

Sean Wilson for the Coastal, and each had an opportunity to share about their programs and the collaborations they have in their communities, as well as working with the local DJJ county offices.

The program also included several special recognitions, and a highlight of the day was the unveiling the new TASC logo, which was created by five of the TASC students from The Center for Educational Equality located in Greenville.

"The responses from the gathering were overwhelmingly positive," said Deborah Lakin, Prevention and Intervention State Coordinator. "Everyone expressed that they look forward to getting together annually."

Dillon County Recognizes Essay Contest Winner and Girls Circle Graduates

On October 23, 2014 a Dillon County DJJ youth named Alonzo was selected as the local winner of a S.C. Press Association essay contest on the dangers of texting while driving. Alonzo entered the contest as part of an assignment given to him by Dillon County Intensive Supervision Officer Torrance White. His essay will be printed in an upcoming issue of The Dillon Herald and will be submitted to the state contest for judging. The prize for the statewide winner will include \$500.00, and a luncheon for the student and his or her parents with the leadership of SCPA, AT&T and the local newspaper.

Dillon County also completed its first session of Girl's Circle and held a graduation on August 7, 2014. The group was facilitated by Cynthia Ford (County Director) and Joanna Hayes (Administrative Specialist).

During the ceremony each girl shared something she learned through Girl's Circle. One participant stated that she learned to respect herself, love herself, and be a better person. A few local women were invited to the graduation to offer support, encouraging words, and to congratulate the girls on their achievement. Among them were Judge Janet Dupree, Cynthia Hulon, Rebekah Baker, Jamilah Campbell, Tamara Bethea, Valeria Graves, Regina Bradley, and Betsy Finklea.

The girls received certificates of completion, certificates for specific superlatives, and small gifts. A reception was held following the ceremony.

For Your Information: **BARJ Behind the Fence**

Since its inception behind the fence, and with over 5,000 completed conferences, Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) continues to influence the minds and hearts of the staff and juveniles at Department of Juvenile Justice—creating a new culture and paradigm to handle conflict and facilitate life change. The BARJ Manager, Ted Blanding, states “I was introduced to Balanced & Restorative Justice approximately two years ago, and my immediate thought was, BARJ was not a program, but a way of life. The BARJ concept centers around repairing broken relationships. The most challenging part of this process is that it requires the participants to surrender themselves to the process in order for it to be effective.”

BARJ is about restoring relationships and seeing change happen holistically, ensuring that no one is left behind. As a conference facilitator, Ms. Alicia Hemingway expressed her joy in witnessing a juvenile reconciled with a juvenile correctional officer. “For a juvenile to be able to take full responsibility for their actions and be able to mend that broken relationship and repair the harm that has been done shows growth and progress within that individual, and that they have been given skills to apply within the community once released.”

The BARJ process has implemented a new strategy over the years by providing juveniles and staff the initiative to encourage positive behavior. Speaking of this process, Ms. Keisha Dunnom-Nixon shares, “The level system was introduced as a new way to motivate and encourage the juveniles here. Through this program, the youth have the opportunity to earn points by demonstrating positive behavior in order to obtain a certain level.”

The BARJ team behind the fence understands that change is possible; however, it is not automatic. They are looking towards new ways to convey these ancient principles and customs not just by expanding into new territories but by being grounded in the principles of Restorative Justice and making victims and communities whole again.

Richland and Kershaw County Youth Participate in Project R.E.A.D.Y.

DJJ’s Richland County office has partnered with the Palmetto Health Hospital Trauma Unit in a collaborative effort to educate young people in both

Richland and Kershaw Counties of the dangers of trauma through a program called PROJECT R.E.A.D.Y. (Realistic Education About Dying Young). Trauma is the leading cause of death in children ages 19 and younger and risk-taking is a natural part of adolescence. So youth in our community need an opportunity to see the consequences of their behavior and decisions.



Ms. Spivey, PROJECT R.E.A.D.Y. Coordinator with Palmetto Health Hospital, welcoming the DJJ-referred young people from both Richland and Kershaw County

On November 8, the PROJECT R.E.A.D.Y. program was presented to 23 youth from Richland and Kershaw Counties who have been adjudicated delinquent with either a violent crime, weapon offense, drug offense, or crime of an aggressive nature. During the session, the youth participated by talking with trauma surgeons, physical therapists, victims of a trauma injury, and Emergency Department staff. The youth touched and felt the real equipment used to treat injuries in the operating room. The young people also visited a real Emergency Department, a physical therapy room, and a morgue. Youth were also able to interact with physical, occupational, and speech therapists and experience first-hand the daily challenges experienced by the injured trauma patients.

Sharon Pinckney Named MASCAVA Volunteer Administrator of the Year

Sharon Pinckney has been named Volunteer Administrator of the Year 2014 for MASCAVA (Midlands Affiliate of the South Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration). Sharon has been a member of MASCAVA since 2011 and currently serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary and co-chair of the Program Committee. In her nomination letter it was stated that Sharon is a highly effective colleague in promoting the profession of Volunteer Administration. Her leadership style is the quiet, behind the scenes style that motivates,

empowers, and inspires her peers as well as her volunteers. Sharon was nominated by her peers and selected by a sub-committee to receive this award.



Sharon Pinckney

5th Annual "Mr. Birchwood" Competition Held

Our 5th Annual Mr. Birchwood "Bulldog" Competition was held Thursday, October 30, 2014 at Birchwood Chapel. The competition was infectious with anticipation, joy and laughter—the culmination of three months of preparation. The contestants once again stole the show with their opening routine, doing the "D-Low Shuffle" dance taught by Ms. Connie Mitchell.

The mission of the competition continues to be to foster confidence and develop social skills within all students competing; while inspiring those in the audience. This event was an opportunity to showcase gallantry, poise, teamwork, and talent, while building and promoting a collaborative, but yet positive school environment and integrating all disciplines and core curriculums. Committee members, sponsors, patrons, faculty, staff and many others went above and beyond to provide a quality event to include large and small tasks such as building backdrops, placing stage designs, rehearsing students, preparing music, ironing shirts, sewing on buttons, hemming pants, and shining shoes. They even sponsored a carwash.

Participants competed in five categories, including opening line dance, casual wear, talent, formal wear, and a Q & A session.

The following criteria for entry were also considered:

1. Students had to fill out an application.
2. There could be no 900 codes in the school from Sept. 2-Oct. 30, 2014.
3. Each student had to write a 100-word essay: "Why Should I Represent Birchwood School as Mr. Birchwood Bulldog?"

The competition started with 14 students; with 13 maintaining behavior levels and meeting all criteria required and competed. Many thanks to each contestant for their commitment, charm, and talent!

In Pictures



Flowers planted by Mushell Delafield and Peggy Williams at BRRC as part of Restoring Carolina



Georgetown County staff participate in the annual Courthouse Fall Festival, that provides a safe environment on Halloween to community children



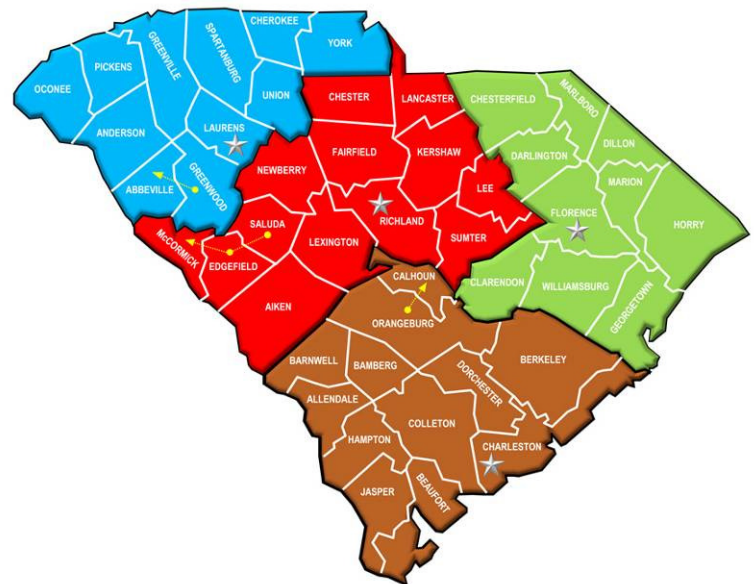
Ray Cavanagh (left) and Sergeant Peggy Williams, the second employee bonus recipient in DJJ's new Employee Incentive Program.



On November 17th, DJJ staff were guests on WGGT's "live" Nite Line Program in Greenville to talk about the agency's community programs, Circle of Hope, and the chaplaincy. Pictured left to right are Spartanburg ISO Leng Soung, Lexington Intake Specialist Rene Sharkey, DJJ Chaplain Nickela Poitier, and Nite Line Host Pastor David Smith.



The Upstate Region of the Community Services Division recently collected toys for the Marine's Toys for Tots campaign. Pictured here (L-R) dropping off a car-load of toys is Upstate Regional Administrator Jennifer Clarke, along with Lance Corporal Adam Bailey (who is also Public Safety Officer with the Spartanburg City Police Department), and an unidentified Marine.



The new four-region structure of The Division of Community Services

DJJ Promotions & Announcements



Melanie Barnett has been selected as the Nurse Manager at the Upstate Evaluation Center.

Vigirinia Camp has been named the new Director of Volunteer Services.

Candice Dunn has been appointed to the position of Supervisor for the Coastal Community Psychologists.

Terrika Eison has accepted the position as the Manager of the Inventory/Supply area within the Division of Administrative Services.

Joe Harris will be taking on a new role of providing training for DJJ staff on special education issues for the Division of Treatment and Intervention Services.

Sonia Isom has been appointed as the new district-wide Technology Instructional Coordinator for the Division of Educational Services.

Kate Kleinfelter has been promoted to the position of Supervisor for the Midlands Community Psychologists for the Division of Treatment and Intervention Services.

Matthew Morrison has been named the new Program Assistant and Mentor Coordinator for Volunteer Services.

Crystal Noble has been named the new County Director for Greenville County.

Toni Vanlue has been promoted to Director of the Board of Juvenile Parole.